

REMARKS

The indication that claims 2 to 6 and 8 to 16 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1 and 7 have been canceled and claims 2 to 4, 6, 8 to 10, and 13 are rewritten in independent form. Claim 14 is now dependent on claim 6 or claim 13 and claims 15 and 16 depend each on any of claims 2 to 6 and 8 to 13.

The rejection of claims 1, 7, 15, and 16 under 35 USC 103 over a combination of six references is believed moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1 and 7 and the change of dependencies of claims 15 and 16 to depend from claims now clearly allowable.

The Examiner is asked to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of applicants' priority document filed in the USPTO on September 19, 2001.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 to 6 and 8 to 16 are immediate condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

Serial No. 09/871,706

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

September 3, 2003
Date

Respectfully submitted,

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